VICTORY FLASHES

April 1, 1944
Number 32

Greetings:

In spite of the fact that this letter is being written on April 1, there's no fooling about it--so help us. Everything in it is the truth--even John Wagner's story about the little moron who put iodine on his pay check because his salary had been cut. You can take all of it at face value.

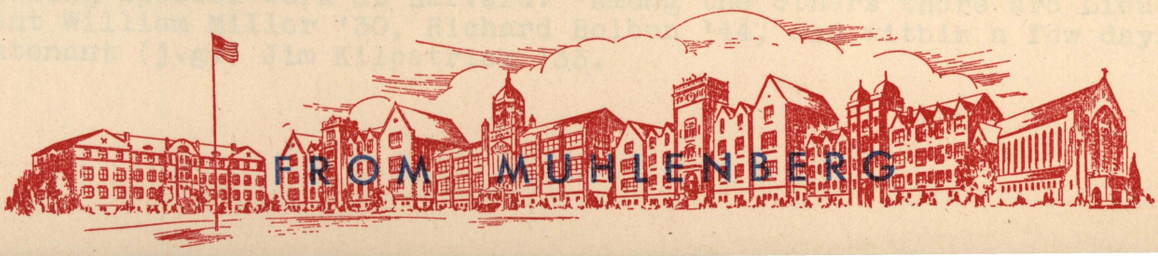
Particularly, you can take at its full value the fact that this letter once again brings you the greetings and best wishes from all of us here on the campus--President Tyson, Dean Horn, Haps Benfer, Bernie, the men who were your favorite teachers, and the gang holding down the Alumni Office. All of us enjoy your letters and watch each mail for more of them. They're coming in now from all parts of the world.

When we came up to College this morning, we knew Spring had arrived. Over night the campus crew set out the freshly painted green benches so that Haps could again hold court underneath the tree at the back of the Ad Building. In a few more weeks you'll find him there regularly, solving the problems of the College and of the world and more than likely you'll find one or two men in uniform, students or former students, sitting there with him. Yes, he still lives on the campus and breathes nothing but Muhlenberg air.

There have been other signs during the past few days that Spring is just about here. When we checked out the other day we saw at least 100 men in sweat suits and fatigues tossing baseballs back and forth across the green on the back campus. Of course Doggie Julian was looking on. The basketball season is history and the baseball season is coming up. There are indications that Muhlenberg will have a good team and that the season will continue well into the summer with at least one game each week. In another two weeks we'll be able to tell you more about the team. The season is scheduled to get under way with Swarthmore on April 15. Track is also on the schedule for the spring season and so is tennis. There'll be plenty of action and plenty of activity.

Big news around here this week is the tremendous increase in the number of Muhlenberg men on our service roster. When we wrote to you just two weeks ago there were 889 names on the Roll of Honor. Today our records show the names of 1036 Muhlenberg men in uniform. All but the comparative few whose addresses we are still trying to get are receiving this letter. The Executive Committee of the Alumni Association, at its regular meeting last Friday, gave specific orders that come what may the Alumni Office is to continue its close contacts with you men in the service. And that's just exactly what we mean to do.

To help us we'd appreciate very much if you would fill in the enclosed card and drop it in the mail. You know postal regulations for men in service better than we do, but perhaps it would be good for men who are overseas to put the card in an envelope and mail it that way.



We're very anxious to have the information so that we can keep our records up to date and make them complete. Thanks much.

We're sorry to have to report that eight of the stars on the Service Flag are now gold. Captain Roland L. Rupp '17, an Army chaplain since July 1942, died in the Allentown Hospital on March 17. He saw service in both World Wars. The War Department announced during the past week that Sergeant Francis S. Paules '37, bombardier and co-pilot of a B-19 bomber, had been killed in action in the European Theatre on January 20. He previously had been reported missing in action.

Today we expect to see quite a few alumni on the campus. Unknown to each other, two former student body presidents, Sergeant Andrew Diefenderfer '40 and Ensign Paul Candalino '43 selected the same day for their respective weddings. Candalino is being married to Eleanor Mary Goeringer at 3 p.m. and Diefenderfer to Margaret Neitz at 4 p.m. Haps Benfer has something to do with both of them.

Lieutenant (j.g.) John H. Wagner, Alumni Secretary on leave for Navy service, checked up here for a few days before he left for his new duties at Camp Peary, Va. He completed his work at Fort Schuyler last Friday and has been assigned to Armed Guard School. Before he left he told us about the little moron who planted shoe trees in his victory garden to save his ration coupons, and also about the little moron in the Army who cut his shoe laces in half because he didn't want to be tongue tied. We think they're corny but he thought we should pass them on to you. The censor deleted a couple of others that have come in during the past few days, but you've probably heard them anyway.

The promotions are still coming in. Here are a few of them: MAJOR H. Edgar Knies '25; SERGEANT Jack High '43; CORPORAL Harold W. Helfrich '44; CAPTAIN Israel Yost '37; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Henry S. Wacker '42; CAPTAIN Owen C. Jones '33; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) William B. VanNess '42; LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Wardell Steigerwalt '42; LIEUTENANT Lester T. Smith '34.

And now to dip into the mail bag:

Harry Becker '43 writes again from India to say that overseas duty gives a fellow a chance to learn how people live in different parts of the world. "When we first came over here," he says, "the greatest percentage of the natives couldn't speak a word of English, but they really can spill it off now, especially when they want a cigarette." Harold Helfrich '44 also writes from India and we understand that Phil Bollier '43 is also on duty over there. Helfrich says that the indescribable filth makes the men who have gone to India realize how fortunate they all are "to live in such a wonderful land as America."

Leonard Wetherhold '42, stationed in the Camp Finance Office at Camp Barkeley, Texas, was amazed to find that some people there hadn't heard of Muhlenberg. He says he is doing all possible to educate them. Several weeks ago he bumped into Ensign Johnny Bisset '42 and Lieutenant Frank DeLucia '41. They were the first Muhlenberg men he met in seventeen months of service. That was just about the case of Andy Diefenderfer '40 who, from the time he left Allentown more than a year ago for duty in Alaska, didn't meet a single person he knew.

Private W.P. Conrad '30 writes from England to send his best regards to all of his classmates in service and out. From Commander James A. Miller '24 comes a note that he is Chief of Surgery at a Navy Base Hospital in North Africa. Some of you fellows over there might like to look him up. Another Navy man, Ensign John Psiaki '43, is taking special work at Harvard. Among the others there are Lieutenant William Miller '30, Richard Holben '44, and within a few days, Lieutenant (j.g.) Jim Kilpatrick '33.

Captain Fred Dry '37, still in Ireland, recently spent two days in London and the first night of his visit was also the night of the first big German raid since the Blitz of '41. He says very frankly that he didn't care for it. His brother, John, is on the Anzio Beachhead in Italy. Fred is a Battalion Surgeon. Irish whiskey, he says, is just like Kentucky moonshine. Naval Air Cadet James C. Bowen '45, was transferred from the Naval Air Station at Chapel Hill to the one at Glenview, Illinois. With him at Chapel Hill were Bill Barba '44, Bill Evans '45, Les Zetty '43, Ben Celian '43, John Schwenk '43, and Bruce Handelong '45. They all hope to meet soon again at Corpus Christi or Pensacola.

Pfc. Carl A. Rassler '43 has been in Panama for the last seven months. A hike into the jungles during which he almost broke his G.I. back, a swim in the Atlantic, and picking wild oranges and pineapples are among the experiences he reports. John H. Miller '32 is base chaplain at Key Field, Miss. and planning chapel activities and keeping records means more hours of work each day. He expects to come East in May for the meeting of the Ministerium. Also still in this country is Robert A. Struthers '42, a corporal at Deshon General Hospital in Butler, Pa.

One of our most faithful correspondents has been Ensign Wilmer Cressman '42. This time his letter bears a San Francisco Fleet Post Office address. He says the Associated Press has brought us the news of some of the events to which he has been an eye-witness.

"Thanks a million for all the dope on the boys," writes Ensign Rolf Dinse '44 from the Naval Air Station at Glenview, Ill. "It's good to read about the swell job they are doing. I never dreamt Muhlenberg would be scattered all over the map as it is." Neither did we, Rolf, but the facts speak for themselves. We'll be happy when the whole gang is back again.

A card from Cosmo Minifri '42--Gus to you--reports that he has come back from Africa and is now at the 121st General Hospital at Camp Ellis, Ill. With the curtailment of ASTP units, Pfc. Ralph Bagger '45 has been assigned to military police and is stationed at Camp Beauregard, La.

It will be impossible to list all of the new names and addresses in this letter, but here are some of them and ultimately we'll catch up. If you want any specific address of any Muhlenberg man-- in service or out--just drop us a line and we'll send it to you.

Franklin H. Saul, Dental School, University of Penna., Phila., Pa.
S1/c Edwin W. Geissinger, USNAS, Patuxent River, Md.
Dr. Joseph L. Nosal, '37, address wanted
Charles G. Helwig '27, address wanted
Lt. Frank M. Wentz, c/o Fl. P.O., New York, N.Y.
S2/c Arthur W. Benson, Educational Officers Ser., Camp Perry, Va.
Lt. Alfred Geschel, address wanted
Pvt. Roger W. Lachman, 3384th Ser. Unit, New Cumberland, Pa.
Lt. Robert L. Seitzinger, Officers Mail Room, Sioux City, Iowa
Lt. William W. Haines, AAB Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz.
Paul Weber, USNTS, Bainbridge, Md.
Cpl. Gustav M. Levin, APO 782, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Major William S. Kistler, 220 F.A. Grp., North Camp Hood, Texas
Pvt. Donald Melcher, Med.Tng.Bn. 3rd Pltn., Camp Barkeley, Texas
Fred W. Wackernagel, APO 464, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. Ernest M. Grahn, APO 520, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pvt. Jack R. Requa, Army Med. Adm., Camp Upton, N.Y.
Sgt. John P. Raker, APO 512, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Lt. Robert L. Dillinger, APO 689, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
A/S Paul G. Cressman, Hahnemann Med. College, Phila. 2, Pa.
Ensign Ellis T. Johnson, c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, N.Y.
Ph. M 1/c John F. Danner, c/o Fleet Post Office, New York, N.Y.
Lt. J. Albert Billy, Fed. Bldg, 426, New Orleans, La.

Pfc. George R. Brennan, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. Jacob E. Hartman, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Midspn. Robert M. Yoder, Univ. of Penna. Dental School, Phila., Pa.
Lt.(j.g.) Wilmer J. Wolfe, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Ensign Calvin E. Loew, c/o Fl. P.O., New York, N.Y.
Cpl. Kenneth D. Moyer, APO 9746, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pfc. Lee H. Miller, ASTU, Brks. 10, Univ. of Penna., Phila., Pa.
Pvt. Joseph H. Laub, 62nd Med.Tng. Bn. MRTC, Camp Barkeley, Texas
Pvt. Burlington B. Latshaw, AAF TC #1, Miami Beach, Fla.
Pvt. N. Herbert Gorin, 16th Cav. Recon.Sdn, Mech., Farmingham, Mass.
Capt. Walter A. Banks, Station Hospital, Stn. #3, Minneapolis, Minn.
Captain Russell H. Derr, AAF Stn. Hosp., Deridder AAB, Deridder, La.
Lt. Sherwood J. Evans, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Pvt. L. Lawrence Blank, Btry.C. 13th Bn. 5th Pltn., Camp Stewart, Ga.
Pfc. Jacob F. Behler, 3305th SU ASTU, Univ. of Penna., Phila., Pa.
T/Sgt. Charles W. French, Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas
Sgt. Roy R. Borger, APO 500, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Pvt. Ralph M. Creveling, 1st Ptn. COD 26 E T Bn, Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.
Lt. Robert R. King, Fort Schuyler, New York 61, N.Y.
Roy A. Wertz, Radio Mat. Sch., Naval Research Lab., Wash. 20, D.C.
Dominic J. Salines, Hahnemann Med. College, Phila. 2, Pa.
Weston R. Buchanan, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Cpl. Ernest E. Krause, APO 467, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pfc. William E. Birmingham, Hahnemann Med. College, Phila., Pa.
Pfc. Eugene R. Kutz, 1615 Green St., Phila., Pa.
Pfc. John Harayda, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, Mass.
Pfc. Thomas G. Jenkins, 3314th ASTU, Temple Univ., Phila. 30, Pa.
S/Sgt. W.A. Campbell, APO 44, c/o P.M., Shreveport, La.
Capt. DeWitt E. DeLawter, APO 852, c/o P.M., Miami, Fla.
Walter E. Menzel, CBMU 533, Port Huenome, Calif.
Col. Austin J. Canning, Rhoads Gen. Hosp., Utica, N.Y.
Pfc. David P. Jaxheimer, Columbia Sch. of Surgery, New York, N.Y.
Lt. Philip E. Vooz, 396th Bomber Crew Sec., Drew Field, Tampa, Fla.
Lt. Horace T. Shuler, 474th ATC, Camp Gordon, Johnston, Fla.
Cpl. Harold J. Sheffe, APO 650, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Arthur A. Sweetser, Jefferson Med. College, Phila. 7, Pa.
Lt. Robert W. Schantz, APO 489, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Pvt. Albert Greenberg, APO 7148, c/o P.M., San Francisco, Calif.
Capt. Edwin F. Keerer, 43 Carolina Apts., Wilmington, N.C.
Lt. Albert B. Kunz, address wanted
Lt. Comdr. Edwin W. Hartzell, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
A/C Harold Krevsky, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.
David Krevsky, 3311 SU ASTU, 1033 Spruce St., Phila. Pa.
Pfc. John A. Detweiler, 572nd AAA AW Bn. (S.P.) Camp Edwards, Mass.
Pfc. Francis L. Wainright, APO 9616, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Cpl. Homer S. Heilman, 218th Bn. 67th Regt., Camp Blanding, Fla.
Pfc. Edwin A. Gleason, Hahnemann Med. College, Phila., Pa.
Sgt. Herman P. Snyder, 843rd Ord. Dept. Co., Camp Pickett, Va.
Lt. Fred H. Rhodes, 557th AAA Bn., Fort Jackson, S.C.
Pfc. Willird W. Christman, 1409 Mt. Vernon St., Phila., Pa.
Major Henry G. Bille, 104 Div. Hdqs., APO 104, Camp Carson, Colo.
Pfc. Howard L. Keiper, APO 634, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Cpl. Ervin R. Kishbaugh, APO 2, c/o P.M., New York, N.Y.
Cpl. Donald B. Kaag, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt. Kermit M. Shelly, c/o Fl. P.O., San Francisco, Calif.
Lt.(j.g.) John P. Schaffner, Hahnemann Hospital, Phila., Pa.
Lt. (j.g.) Dana H. Smith, BO 2, Unit 52, No 3, Norfolk, Va.

We're down at the bottom of the page again so the rest of the names will have to go over until the next time. Meanwhile, don't forget to send back the enclosed card.

Best of luck to all of you.

Sincerely,

Gordon

Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office